Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2577

INFO THOMAS DINEEN, EXECUTIVE V.P.

ALLIS-CHALMERS CORPORATION

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53201

TELEX 269441

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

UNCLAS USINT BAGHDAD 1210

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: BTRA, IZ

SUBJECT: VISIT OF ALLIS-CHALMERS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

REF: BAGHDAD 1201

1. ALLIS-CHALMERS (A-C) BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND WIVES DEPARTED BAGHDAD FOR JIDDA ON SCHEDULE MORNING OF SATURDAY NOVEMBER 22ND. DIRECTORS WERE UNABLE TO MAKE ANY OFFICIAL CALLS (MINISTERS WERE TIED UP WITH OTHER HIGH-LEVEL GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT DELEGATIONS). GROUP, HOWEVER, AT PRIVATELY HOSTED DINNER NOVEMBER 20 DID MEET AND HOLD LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS WITH KEY OFFICIALS--INCLUDING UNDERSECRETARY OF IRRIGATION AND PRESIDENT OF STATE ORGANIZATION FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (SOAD). AT COCKTAIL-BUFFET HOSTED NOVEMBER 21 BY USINT PRINCIPAL OFFICER, DIRECTORS AND WIVES MET LEADING REPRESENTATIVES OF RESIDENT US AND EUROPEAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY AS WELL AS PROMINENT IRAQI BUSINESSMEN AND PROFESSIONALS. DIRECTORS WERE ABLE TO HOLD SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH MANY OF THESE INDIVIDUALS.

2. IN ADDITION TO ACTIVITIES REPORTED ABOVE AND REFTEL GROUP ALSO VISITED IRAQI MUSEUM, KDERBALA AND BABYLON.

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3. AS A RESULT OF THESE CONTACTS, A-C CHAIRMAN DAVID

SCOTT HAS TENTATIVELY DECIDED RETURN PERSONALLY TO IRAQ IN JANUARY 1976 TO PURSUE NUMBER OF TOP-PRIORITY LEADS BROUGHT TO HIS ATTENTION DURING VISIT BY PRESIDENT OF SOAD AND BY OTHERS. MR. SCOTT REMAINS DETERMINED TO OPEN A-C OFFICE IN BAGHDAD AS SOON AS IT CAN BE ARRANGED.

4. COMMENT: IRAQIS AND AMERICANS ALIKE WHO MET GROUP WERE VERY FAVORABLY IMPRESSED BY WARMTH AND FIRENDLINESS OF DIRECTORS AND WIVES, WHO, IN TURN, APPEARED TO FIND THEIR STAY IN IRAQ ENJOYABLE AND INSTRUCTIVE. WE JUDGE VISIT TO HAVE BEEN SOLIDLY SUCCESSFUL BOTH FROM A-C PERSPECTIVE AND FROM BROADER VIEWPOINT OF CONTINUALLY IMPROVING US-IRAQI COMMERCIAL RELATIONSHIPS. A-C BOARD NOW BETTER INFORMED ON BOTH OPPORTUNITIES AND HAZARDS OF DOING BUSINESS IN IRAQ. WILEY

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